

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2546
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4248

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, ILO, JO
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN MINLABOR OFFERS TO INTERCEDE WITH ARAB COLLEAGUES
ON U.S. ILO POSITION

REF: (A) STATE 169505; (B) AMMAN 4188 AND 4189

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, JORDAN
MINLABOR 'AJLOUNI MENTIONED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH
DEVELOPMENTS AT GENEVA ILC AS WELL AS HIS PROFOUND
CONCERN AS TO FATE OF ILO SHOULD U.S. DECIDE TO
WITHDRAW MEMBERSHIP. 'AJLOUNI COMMENTED THAT HE
BELIEVED SEVERAL OTHER INFLUENTIAL ARAB GOVERNMENTS
SHARED HIS VIEWS, AND MIGHT RESPOND TO LOW-KEY,
PERSONAL DEMARCHE ON HIS PART. SPECIFICALLY, 'AJLOUNI
OFFERED PERSONALLY TO APPROACH LABOR MINISTERS IN
COUNTRIES SUCH AS KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT,
SYRIA, AND LIBYA (LATTER APPARENTLY
HAS FRIENDLY MINLABOR) IN EFFORT TO PRODUCE MORE
MODERATE PUBLIC STANCE BY ARABS ON ILO ISSUES
OF CONCERN OT U.S. SHOULD 'AJLOUNI SUCCEED,
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HE SAID, RESULT WOULD BE TO DEMONSTRATE EVIDENCE
ON PART OF ARABS OF TREND AWAY FROM POLITICIZATION
OF ILO, TOWARD CONCRETE PROGRESS. 'AJLOUNI
OBSERVED THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT ARAB
GOVERNMENTS HAD SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT U.S. IS
SERIOUS ABOUT ITS THREAT TO WITHDRAW, AND THAT
PRESENT TIME IS THEREFORE PROPITIOUS FOR ARABS

TO MANIFEST THEIR CONCERN BY CONCRETE ACTIONS.

2. DRAWING ON REFTEL A, AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT SUCH A DEMARCHE APPEARED TO HOLD MORE PROMISE THAN PASSIVE ACQUIESCENCE IN STATUS QUO UNTIL NEXT YEAR'S ILC--BY WHICH TIME U.S. DECISION ON WITHDRAWAL WILL HAVE BEEN MADE. HE PROMISED TO CONSULT WITH DEPARTMENT AND IN MEANTIME 'AJLOUNI WILL SOUND OUT HIS ARAB COLLEAGUES FOR REACTIONS.

3. COMMENT: SHOULD DEPARTMENT AGREE TO ASSIST 'AJLOUNI IN HIS EFFORTS, EMBASSY WILL THOROUGHLY BRIEF HIM ON ILO ISSUES OF INTEREST TO U.S. ('AJLOUNI WAS SO BRIEFED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO GENEVA AS WELL.) JUDGING FROM HIS EFFECTIVENESS AS OFFICIAL LIAISON BETWEEN USDEL AND ARAB DELS AT GENEVA, 'AJLOUNI APPEARS TO HAVE SOLID CONTACTS AMONG ARAB COLLEAGUES. HOWEVER, SINCE ILO ISSUES HAVE BEEN GONE OVER TIME AND TIME AGAIN, WE ARE NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC THAT SUCH A DEMARCHE CAN PRODUCE RESULTS. NEVERTHELESS, 'AJLOUNI'S EFFORTS MIGHT WORK, DUE TO POSSIBILITY THAT 11TH-HOUR REALIZATION BY ARABS THAT U.S. MEANS BUSINESS MIGHT BRING ABOUT SOFTENING OF THEIR POSITION, SO WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM DEPT'S ENCOURAGEMENT. RECENT PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT
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OF CROWN PRINCE HASSAN IN U.S. ILO ROLE
(REFTELS B) ALSO PROVIDES ENCOURAGING NOTE.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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